

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

/044 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:HMMONTGOMERY:JR

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COMMERCE:WALE (SUBS)

EB/OCA/CM:LAKLIEFORTH (INFO)

AF/E:RFILLING (INFO)

PA:CPRENTICE (INFO)

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN (INFO)

NEA/ARN:ARDBAY (INFO)

NEA/IRN:CNAAS (INFO)

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL (SUBS)

NEA/EGY:JHMATTHEWS (INFO)

EUR/SE:JDAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: OVIP, BTRA, TC, SA, SU, KU, SY, GR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF TENNESSEE GOVERNOR RAY BLANTON:  
TENNESSEE TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 2407059 (NOTAL); TEHRAN 10379

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD FOR ACTION

1. THERON J. RICE, JR., DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INFORMED US OCTOBER  
23 THAT TENNESSEE GOVERNOR RAY BLANTON, WITH PARTY OF FIVE  
STATE OFFICIALS, WILL VISIT GREECE, SUDAN, SOMALIA, UAE,  
KUWAIT, SYRIA, AND SAUDI ARABIA OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 17  
ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING ITINERARY:

--DEPART NASHVILLE/WASHINGTON DC OCTOBER 25.  
--ARRIVE LONDON 0730 HOURS OCTOBER 26 VIA PANAN 106.  
--DEPART LONDON 0830 HOURS OCTOBER 26 VIA BEA 452.  
--ARRIVE ATHENS 1355 HOURS OCTOBER 26.  
--DEPART ATHENS/ARRIVE KHARTOUM OCTOBER 31.  
--DEPART KHARTOUM/ARRIVE MOGADISCIO NOVEMBER 3.  
--DEPART MOGADISCIO/ARRIVE UAE NOVEMBER 6.  
(IN ABU DHABI, DUBAI, AND SHARJAH)  
--DEPART UAE/ARRIVE KUWAIT NOVEMBER 9.  
--DEPART KUWAIT/ARRIVE DAMASCUS NOVEMBER 12  
--DEPART DAMASCUS/ARRIVE RIYADH NOVEMBER 14 (TENTATIVE)  
--DEPART RIYADH APPROXIMATELY NOVEMBER 17.

2. GOVERNOR'S TRAVEL FROM ATHENS THROUGH RIYADH TO BE BY  
PRIVATE LEARJET 35 CHARTERED IN WEST GERMANY, TAIL NUMBER  
NOT YET KNOWN.

3. TRAVELING WITH GOVERNOR WILL BE:  
--MR. THOMAS D. BENSON, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
--MR. GENE BLANTON, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR  
--MR. BROOKS PARKER, ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR  
--MR. JIM ALLEN, ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR  
--CAPTAIN BILL PARKER, MEMBER OF GOVERNOR'S STAFF.  
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COMMISSIONER BENSON, OF STATE CABINET RANK, IS CONTACT MAN  
FOR PARTY. CAPTAIN BILL PARKER IS CONTACT REGARDING  
LOCAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

4. FOR KHARTOUM: WE UNDERSTAND FROM RICE THAT MINISTER  
OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS FAISAL ABDUL RAHMAN IS AWARE OF  
ARRANGMENTS FOR SUDANESE VISIT AND SUGGEST EMBASSY CONTACT  
HIM FOR FURTHER DETAILS. FYI: WE ARE TOLD ARRANGEMENTS

MADE BY RICARDO RACITI, CHAIRMAN OF MEFIT CONSULTING FIRM  
OF ROME AND HIS BEIRUT ASSOCIATE, EL-HIBRI END FYI.

5. FOR ATHENS: RICE SAYS GOVERNOR BEING MET AND ENTER-  
TAINED PRIVATELY, STAYING AT HOTEL ASTIR, NO NEED FOR  
EMBASSY HELP ANTICIPATED. (ATHENS STAY IS ESSENTIALLY  
FOR GOVERNOR TO PREPARE FOR SUBSEQUENT VISITS.)

6. FOR JIDDA: RICE SAYS GOVERNOR'S SAUDI VISIT STILL  
NOT FIRM.

7. NO FURTHER INFORMATION YET PROVIDED US REGARDING  
GOVERNOR'S ACCOMMODATIONS, SCHEDULES, CONTACTS.

8. FOR BEIRUT AND TUNIS: REGARDING TENNESSEE TRADE  
MISSION, RICE SAYS BEIRUT DEFINITELY HAS BEEN DROPPED  
FROM MISSION ITINERARY (EXCEPT AS AIR TRANSIT POINT).  
TUNIS NOW TO BE FIRST STOP. GROUP ARRIVING TUNIS 1405  
HOURS NOVEMBER 2 FROM LONDON VIA TUNIS AIRWAYS 791.  
STAYING AT HILTON; LOCAL CONTACT TIJANI CHELLY OF  
INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AGENCY. DEPARTING TUNIS 0840 HOURS  
NOVEMBER 5 FOR KUWAIT VIA ROME AND BEIRUT, ARRIVING  
KUWAIT VIA MEA AT 2220 HOURS.

9. IN FURTHER REGARD TO TRADE MISSION, WHICH TO OVERLAP  
WITH GOVERNOR'S VISIT ONLY IN UAE, RICE CONTINUES TO CITE  
PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING US WITH FULL FIRM ITINERARY (ONE  
PROBLEM APPARENTLY IS EFFORT TO JUGGLE DATES IN ORDER TO  
ARRIVE EARLIER IN TEHRAN), LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 12  
PARTICIPANTS, AND NAMES OF LOCAL CONTACTS. RICE NOW SAYS  
GROUP WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFINGS, AS POSSIBLE, EARLY IN  
VISITS AT EACH POST BUT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT FORESEE ANY  
CALL UPON POSTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN HOLDING RECEPTIONS. INGERSOLL  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** ATHENS MULTIPLE  
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